<u>REMARKS/ARGUMENTS</u>

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 11, 15, 19, and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,926,616 to <u>Sato et al.</u> (herein "<u>Sato</u>"). Claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16-18, and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over <u>Sato</u> as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. patent 5,327,260 to <u>Shimomae et al.</u> (herein "<u>Shimomae</u>").

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 11, 15, 19, and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by <u>Sato</u>, and the further rejection of claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16-18, and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over <u>Sato</u> as applied to claim 1, and further in view of <u>Shimomae</u>, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

Each of the independent claims is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, each of the independent claims now clarifies that "the integers Dy [Dx] and Ry [Rx] are determined based on a ratio <u>DPIin/DPIout</u> between an image resolution of an input original image <u>DPIin</u> and an image resolution of an output image <u>DPIout, and Dy [Dx] and Ry [Rx] satisfy (Dy+Ry)/2 [(Dx+Rx)/2] = DPIin/DPIout</u>". That subject matter is fully supported by the original specification, see for example page 12, line 20 *et seq.* As discussed therein a ratio of an input image resolution DPIin and an image resolution DPIout for a signal, for example that may be printed, may take the form of DPIout/DPIin, and (Dy + Ry)/2 or (Dx + Rx)/2 may be equal to that ratio. Thus, the integers Dy, Dx and Ry, Rx are set based on that ratio DPIout/DPIin. Such subject matter clarified in the claims is believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art to <u>Sato</u>.

The basis for the outstanding rejection cites the teachings in <u>Sato</u> at column 5, lines 1-34 and column 4, lines 38-41 to disclose determining integers based on a ratio between an image resolution of an input original image and an image resolution of an output image.[1]

In response to that basis for the outstanding rejection, applicants first note that clearly <u>Sato</u> does not teach or suggest the further definition of how the integers Dy, Dx, and Ry, Rx are calculated as further clarified in the claims, and particularly such that Dy, Dx and Ry, Rx satisfy "(Dy + Ry)/2 = DPIin/DPIout" or "(Dx + Rx)/2 = DPIin/DPIout".

Moreover, the basis for the outstanding rejection indicates that in <u>Sato</u> integers 2 and 1 are determined based on the 200 DPI input image and the 300 DPI output image. That basis for the outstanding rejection, however, is not at all understood. As noted in the Office Action at the top of page 3 a ratio of 200 DPI input/300 DPI output is 2/3. However, how that ratio 2/3 has any relevance to the noted integers 2 and 1 is completely unclear.

Moreover, the indication in the Office Action of a conversion from 200 DPI input to 600 DPI output satisfying an integer m=3 is also unclear as the claimed ratio is a ratio between (an image resolution of an input original DPIin)/(image resolution of an output image DPIout), i.e. DPIin/DPIout. The basis for the outstanding rejection is instead utilizing a ratio of an (output image)/(input image). In such further ways the teachings in <u>Sato</u> differ from the claimed features.

In view of the foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit that the claims as currently written clearly distinguish over the applied art to <u>Sato</u>.
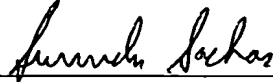
Moreover, no teachings in <u>Shimomae</u> are relied upon to address any of the above-noted features, and the teachings in <u>Shimomae</u> are not believed to overcome the above-noted deficiencies in <u>Sato</u>.

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[1] Office Action of June 8, 2004, the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the

present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested

that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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